

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29004 311432Z
ACTION STE-01

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P 311423Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6742

UNCLAS PARIS 29004

FROM VAN GIL ER

FOR OPR/ST

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ATRN, AMED, OGEN (FOR L)
SUBJECT: AIR FREIGHT EDMUND VAN GILDER

REF: STATE 219632

SUMMARY. POSITION OF CONTRACTOR (IXP) RE MISSING TRUNK IS CALLOUS, CAPRICIOUS AND PURE FLUMMERY.THERE IS NO REASON TO HOPE THAT TRUNK WILL MYSTERIOUSLY SHOW UP IN HHE. ASSUME DEPARTMENT FINDS CONTRACTOR'S POSITION AS UNACCEPTABLE AS I DO AND IS ACTING ACCORDINGLY. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTRACTOR'S VAGUE HOPE THAT TRUNK WILL SOMEHOW TURN UP IN SURFACE SHIPMENT IS PATENTLY RIDICULOUS. EIGHTEEN PIECES OF AIR FREIGHT, INCLUDING TRUNK IN QUESTION, WERE PICKED UP AT MY HOME ON JULY 24. FOURTEEN PIECES WERE SHIPPED ON AIR BILL DATED JULY 28, SEVERAL PIECES HAVING BEEN COMBINED IN LARGER BUNDLES. SURFACE SHIPMENT WAS NOT PICKED UP UNTIL AUGUST 1. TRUNKS LISTED IN SURFACE INVENTORY ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, MISSING TRUNK.

2. ASIDE FROM MEDICINE URGENTLY NEEDED BY MY WIFE, TRUNK CONTAINS LARGE QUANTITY QUALITY WOMAN'S CLOTHING
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CAREFULLY PURCHASED OVER SIX MONTH PERIOD AT SAME PRICES IN US. REPLACEMENT VALUE AT PARIS PRICES IS IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF FIVE REPEAT FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. EMOTIONAL EFFECT ON WIFE OF THIS APPARENT LOSS SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO EVEN THE MOST JADED.

3. IT IS NOW OVER A MONTH SINCE AIR FREIGHT WAS PICKED

UP AND SHIPPED. TRUNK, FOR WHICH CONTRACTOR HAS ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT, IS MISSING. I EXPECT CONTRACTOR TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND IT.

FOR OPR/ST AND L:

4. IF TRUNK HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED BY SEPTEMBER 10, I PLAN TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF LEGAL ACTION (INCLUDING DAMAGES) AGAINST CONTRACTOR ON GROUNDS OF NEGLIGENCE. I AM AWARE OF SOME OF THE VARIOUS DISCLAIMERS SHIPPERS INVOKE BUT THINK IT WORTH TRYING. THIS RAISES TWO QUESTIONS:

- A. WILL DEPARTMENT JOIN ME IN SUCH ACTION?
- B. HAS CONTRACTOR IN ANY WAY FAILED TO MEET CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT WITH DEPARTMENT?

FOR MED

5. REQUEST COPY THIS CABLE BE INCLUDED WIFE'S MEDICAL FILE. IF ANTIBIOTIC IN MISSING TRUNK NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY, MAY ASK YOUR HELP IN CONTACTING PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN FOR SUBSTITUTE.

6. SENDING DETAILS SEPTEL THAT MAY HELP IN TRACING TRUNK.

HARTMAN
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NNN

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